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Riverline project takes step forward with design concepts

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The Riverline urban trail project is taking another step forward today with the release of new design concepts.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is seeking to transform 1.5 miles of dormant rail line from the First Ward to South Buffalo into a thriving park. The design process is supported by a team of urban design experts from across the U.S., including W Architecture, Hood Design Studio and Green Shield Ecology.



WESTERN NEW YORK LAND CONSERVANCY A draft design concept for The Riverline urban trail in Buffalo.

The public release of new renderings represents the halfway point of the design process, the conservancy announced. A livestreamed public presentation will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Registration is available here.

The new concepts present a variety of gardens and nature-based recreational spaces passing through Buffalo's Old First Ward, Perry and Valley neighborhoods.

The design includes bike trails, boardwalks, public classrooms and a bridge over an active rail line, envisioned as a possible gathering point for train enthusiasts. It will connect to parks and paddleboat launches along the Buffalo River and connect to trails into Canalside, the Outer Harbor and Larkinville.

In the long-term, the project buildout will require significant support from yet-to-be-identified funding sources. Land Conservancy executive director <u>Nancy Smith</u> said the buildout could include everything from a phased approach to a single major project. The land is owned by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, which is supporting the project planning and design work.

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